

**[Watch commission at work](#)**

**Wednesday, July 28, 2004 -**

On behalf of the Butte County Children and Families Commission, I am responding to the July 16 front-page Associated Press article and the July 17 "Hits and misses" editorial on the audit report concerning review of the California Children and Families Commission and five county commissions. Although the Butte County commission was not included in this audit report, we wish to respond.

In November 1998, California voters approved Proposition 10. The proposition charges local commissions to improve and enhance services for young children from birth to age 5. Nurturing children's physical, intellectual, social and emotional development is the overarching priority for services funded by the Butte County Children and Families Commission. Last fiscal year alone, 36,165 direct service contacts were delivered to Butte County children and families.

The local commission believes a thorough audit is an important tool to ensure that taxpayer funds are prudently invested and managed. Our annual outside financial audit has always shown Butte County Children and Families Commission to be in compliance with all accepted accounting principles. The local commission also follows a strategic and fiscal plan to ensure appropriate and accountable funding decisions and the sustainability of services.

We are careful stewards of taxpayer funds and invite the community to take an active role in the commission's open meetings. Our next meeting is Sept. 17 in Oroville at 202 Mira Loma Drive.

Karen Marlatt, Oroville